

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the Office action mailed April 18, 2006 is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### **Drawings, Specification and Written Description Requirement**

The examiner objected to the drawings and specification by saying they failed to show or teach a dielectric as recited in claims 1, 10 and 17. The examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, 17 and 19-24 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, by saying the specification fails to teach a dielectric as claimed. Applicant traverses these objections and rejection, but nevertheless, has amended the claims to delete reference to a dielectric. Accordingly, the objections and rejection are now moot.<sup>1</sup>

The examiner stated that different species are shown in the drawings and that applicant has claimed the species shown in figures 5-9. That statement, however, is incorrect to the extent it implies that the claims are focused on or limited to the embodiments shown in those figures. The wordings of the claims, not figures 5-9, define the subject matter for which applicant is currently seeking patent protection. Applicant's claims cover the embodiments shown in figures 5-9 as well as all other embodiments meeting the limitations of the claims; they are not limited to the depicted embodiments. The figures are intended to help enable the claims and help illustrate the best mode.

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<sup>1</sup> Dielectrics are discussed in at least paragraph 47 of the specification as published, and figures 3 and 4 identify a spacer 252 that functions as a dielectric. Air is also a common dielectric, and an air gap is shown in various figures.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102**

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Terauchi (US Patent 4,512,224). This rejection is traversed.

Terauchi discloses a slitter machine to cut fabric rolled onto a tube. The roll is held horizontal by a guide rod G and the roll is rotated on the guide rod while a blade moves forward to cut the roll. The blade will advance until a limit switch contacts a stop, at which point the blade will move back. If the limit switch fails, then the blade will continue to move forward without stopping until it contacts the rod supporting the roll. If that contact occurs, an electric current will flow between the blade and the rod to signal the blade to move back and/or stop. (Terauchi, column 2, line 60 through column 3, line 6.)

Terauchi fails to disclose a capacitive coupling as recited by claim 10. Claim 10 specifies that the capacitive coupling is “adapted to capacitively couple the excitation system to the arbor to transfer at least a portion of the electrical signal to the blade,” and that “the capacitive coupling includes two spaced-apart conductors.” Terauchi, in contrast, applies “[a]n AC voltage of approximately 8 V ... to the cutting blade through the bearing 14a”, which is a conductive coupling, not a capacitive coupling. (Terauchi, column 2, lines 60-61.)

The examiner, however, says guide rod G and drive shaft 121 in Terauchi form the required capacitive coupling. That cannot be true because the guide rod and drive shaft do not “capacitively couple the excitation system to the arbor to transfer at least a portion of the electrical signal to the blade.” There simply is no capacitive coupling between guide rod G and drive shaft 121. Even in the case where the limit switch fails

and the blade contacts the guide rod, there still would not be any capacitive coupling between the drive shaft and guide rod. In that case, the connection would be a *conductive* coupling between the blade and the guide rod, not a *capacitive* coupling.

This is evident from the following quotations from Terauchi:

“When a current flows between the cutting blade 12 and the guide holder rod G *due to contact*, the preferred embodiments of the present invention performs safety control ....” (Terauchi, column 2, lines 64-67, emphasis added.)

“When they *contact* each other, a current flows.” (Terauchi, column 3, line 6, emphasis added.)

In summary, Terauchi does not disclose a capacitive coupling as recited in claim 10, and therefore, Terauchi does not anticipate that claim.

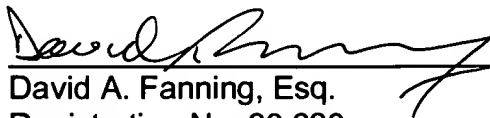
**Allowable Subject Matter**

The examiner allowed claims 12-14 and 16. Applicant agrees with the examiner’s conclusion regarding the patentability of the claims without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the examiner’s reasons for allowance or other statements.

Applicant also notes that claims 1-6, 9, 17 and 19-24 have not been rejected over the prior art and should now be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that the attached documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AMENDMENT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: July 18, 2006

Signature: 

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